

From the NASA Earth Science - Data Systems Working Group, Standards Process Group (SPG).

The NASA ES-DSWG Standards Process is designed to elicit endorsements of community standards or best practices that have been successfully implemented by NASA Earth science data systems stakeholders and have proven system interoperability or data integration benefits for NASA Earth sciences in an operational environment.

A Technical Working Group (TWG) was formed for review of the implementation experience for SPG-RFC-005, "Proposed Community Standard for use of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Web Map Service (WMS) Specification version 1.3." The SPG-RFC-005 TWG developed a set of review questions and solicited reviews from a wide range of NASA stakeholders. The TWG received 15 evaluations describing experience in implementing WMS.

Upon examination of these responses, the TWG found that there was broad agreement that, in general, WMS implementation for use with NASA data is not only readily achievable, but also likely to yield operational benefit. However, the responses did not indicate that NASA community has sufficient experience with version 1.3 of the specification for the SPG to recommend endorsement at this time. The overwhelming majority of respondents' experience is with an earlier release of OGC WMS, version 1.1.1.

Based on the outcome from the reviews and subsequent discussions, the SPG-RFC-005 TWG recommended to the full SPG the following actions:

1. The SPG-RFC-005 TWG recommended that SPG-RFC-005 be reclassified as a Technical Note rather than a community standard. The consensus of the SPG-RFC-005 TWG was that OGC WMS 1.3 is an emerging standard as evidenced by its recent adoption as ISO 19128 by the International Organization for Standardization. SPG-RFC-005 TWG believed that OGC WMS 1.3 is very likely to work with NASA data in an operational setting but there was insufficient existing experience to make a full recommendation.
2. The SPG-RFC-005 TWG also proposed to create a new RFC, SPG-RFC-006, "Proposed Community Standard for use of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Web Map Service (WMS) Specification version 1.1.1." Further the SPG-RFC-005 TWG recommended contacting the respondents to the initial WMS review, to consider applying their comments on implementation experience to the proposed new RFC-006.

These recommendations were reviewed and approved by the full SPG during a telecon on February 14, 2006.